

Docket No.: 614.1963D

Serial No. 10/615,978

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, each of claims 12, 13 and 14 has been amended to clarify salient features of the invention and without the introduction of new matter. Claims 15-18 have also been amended to improve form and without change of substance. Support for the amendments to claims 12 and 13-14 resides in the disclosures of FIGS. 9 and 10 and the related descriptions thereof in the specification at pages 27 et seq. and 30 et seq., respectively. Approval and entry of the amended claims 12-18 are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 4, 7, 8 and 12-20 were allowed in the Action mailed August 5, 2005 and, in accordance with the cancellation of claims 6 and 21 by the Response filed January 5, 2005, the application was placed in condition for allowance.

The current Action, however, has raised a new ground of rejection, limited to claims 12-18, whereas claims 4, 7, 8, 19 and 20 remain allowed.

Reconsideration of the amended claims 12, 13 and 14 and of claims 15-18 is respectfully requested.

**ITEM 5: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12-18 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)
OVER CAMPANA, JR. ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 5,745,532)**

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure of Campana, Jr. et al. does not render obvious the invention as defined herein by the rejected claims 12-18, taking into account claims 12, 13 and 14 as amended herein.

Campana discloses a system for providing first and second encoded information streams each comprising the information to be transmitted with the second stream being delayed by a time delay interval with respect to the first stream which is equal to or greater than the fading interval. The digital signal processor places an error marker within the detected first and second parallel information streams to mark each faded information unit and controls replacement of each error marker within at least one of the first and second parallel information streams with replacement data bits within a frame in one of the first and second parallel information streams which were time offset at transmission by the time delay interval to produce error free transmitted information. A benefit of Campana resides in the ability to reduce the number of bits of error correction code which are present in each transmitted frame of the first and second

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parallel information streams. The replacement of erroneous information units by processing of the decoded first and second parallel information streams can correct errors caused by fades which otherwise would be corrected by processing with an error correction routine using additional error correction code bits within the frames of the first and second parallel information streams. (Abstract, col. 24, lines 57-67).

Campana's approach is to send first and second encoded information streams, each comprising the information to be transmitted with the second stream being delayed, which is quite apparently different from the claimed invention. As to amended claim 12, Campana does not suggest "separating wavelength-multiplexed optical signals into an optical signal having a wavelength conveying k bits representing transmission data and another optical signal having another wavelength conveying $(n-k)$ bits representing error correction bits", and does not suggest "performing error correction decoding for every said k bits using said $(n-k)$ bits representing error correction bits".

As to claims 13 and 14, Campana does not suggest using the unused $(n-k)$ channels for transmitting error correction bits.

As to claims 15-18, Campana does not suggest the claimed configurations to generate error correction bits only for m data in k channels and insert an identification signal into each of the m data and the $(n-k)$ error correction bits, and Campana does not suggest the claimed configurations to decode the m data using the $(n-k)$ error correction bits using the identification signals.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing that the foregoing has demonstrated clearly the patentability of the rejected claims 15-18 over the references and rejections of record.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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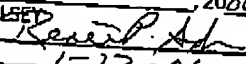
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